Please amend the Application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following at line 8, on page 1 of the specification.

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATION

The present patent application claims the right of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 (a)-(d) of German Patent Application No. 103 04 816.2, filed February 6, 2003.--

Please amend line 9 on page 1 of the specification as follows.

~~BACKGROUND~~ FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 10-12 of the specification as follows.

~~Field of the Invention:~~ The present invention relates to cellulose ether blends of increased bulk density, their use in construction material systems, and a process for increasing the bulk density of cellulose ethers.

Please insert the following at line 13 on page 1 of the specification.

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 14-17 of the specification as follows.

~~Brief Description of the Prior Art:~~ In view of their outstanding properties cellulose ethers find diverse application, for example as thickeners, adhesives, binders, dispersants, water retention agents, protective colloids, stabilizers, suspending agents, emulsifiers and film formers.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 12-23 of the specification as follows.

This object has been achieved by mixing water-moist cellulose ethers, such as are present, for example, after the washing of crude cellulose ethers, with starch ethers and, with addition of water and with mixing, bringing the resultant mixture to a moisture content which is ideal for the subsequent operating steps. Where appropriate it is possible to produce a synergistic effect ~~of~~ [[_____]] by adding polyacrylamide additives as well. The amount of starch ether used is from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the dry cellulose ether, and the amount of the polyacrylamide, where used, is from 0.05 to 1.0% by weight, based on the dry cellulose ether. The starch ether is added here in the form of an aqueous solution or, preferably, in the form of powder, while the polyacrylamide is metered in as an aqueous solution. The cellulose ethers thus treated with additives are subsequently dried and milled, sequentially or in one step.

Please insert the following at line 10 on page 4 of the specification.

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--